

CITY HEIGHTS AREA PLANNING COMMITTEE
Minutes of Aug 2, 2021

Russ called the meeting to order and called roll at 6:33 PM., Francisco Garcia, Asma Abdi, Jim Varnadore, Edwin Lohr, Brian Green-Carson (6:53), Maria Cortez, David Nelson, Mazda Mehraz, Patty Vaccariello, Rosa Calvario, Roddy Jerome, Krista Berry-Ortega, Randy Torres-Van Vleck. Ken Furukawa, Marcellus Anderson and Russ Connelly were in attendance. Absent were: Rahmo Abdi, Scott Anglim, Jake Banfield-Weir and Simonei Medina.

1. After roll call, the sign in sheet was disclosed per Brown Act and Council Policy 600-24 guidelines.

2. Minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

3. Agenda as presented was moved by Patty Vaccariello and seconded by Krista Berry-Ortega. Passed unanimously.

4. Staff Comment:

- Julio Garcia, representative of Council district 9, talked about the following: Interpreter availability, Cool Zones, The Nat Night out screening Spies in Disguise.
- Stephanie Estrada – Mayor’s office – Gave comment on various staff positions filled and Rent Relief.

5. Off-Agenda Public Comment

- Becky Rapp spoke against marijuana businesses
- Paul Simonds discussed the Fairmount Ave. Fire Station
- Krista Berry Ortega: might be her last meeting
- Danielle Laman asked about the Fire station project
- Esperanza Gonzalez expressed her position against Marijuana businesses.
- Linda Coffman inquired about the Firehouse project and the Chollas Creek Bed restoration project.

6. Business agenda

6.1 Apptointment to fill the 2022 Business Seat - Mick Rossner owner of Tower Bar is interested but was unable to attend the meeting. No one else expressed interest – Tabled

6.2 Update on Repairs to City Heights Pool - Sara McCullen & Elif Cetin gave a presentation/update on the community pool repairs/rebuild. Several questions were

raised by the committee and the community and were discussed with request to give responses to back to the Chair.

6.3 City's "Homes for all of us" proposal and Development Code Updates - David Nelson Motioned to send a letter to City Council and Mayor to delay any action on policy updates until Community Planning Groups could look into them further. Patty V. Seconded. Vote was 14-1-0 with the chair not voting and the motion passed.

6.4 Discussion of future meeting topics and return to in-person meetings - Russ explained that we may have to go back to in-person meetings after Sept. 30th unless decided otherwise by the State of California per the Ralph M Brown act and gained input for future meeting topics.

7. Chair's Report:

No meeting in September due to Labor Day.

- Zoom meeting previous week about State ADU law vs what the City adopted. The city was much more generous due to setback waivers and other incentives. Senator Atkins and City Council members Joe Lacava and Sean Elo attended this meeting. A group that is fighting these regulations will come to us for a presentation in the future.
- Code enforcement and Community Policing have still not been restored to previous levels and that means that City Heights is being feeling the brunt of homeless and other quality-of-life issues.

8. Board Comments Maria, Jim and Randy made comments.

9. Adjournment - Russ declared the meeting adjourned at 8:19 PM.